

plied: 'No convention can make me vote for any man/ A second Roosevelt delegate answered, 'Present and not voting/ and a second alternate was called who voted for Taft, This, in brief, is the reason why the Massachusetts delegation, which was divided 18 to 18, shows on the record 20 votes 'Taft' and 16 'present and not voting'.⁵

"If this transfer of two votes was fair play, good parliamentary law, and the traditional practice of a Republican convention, its basis can be found in the printed records of the successive Republican conventions since 1856. They have been examined by the writer from beginning to end as the basis of this article. There is not one single rule, vote, or decision in any one of the fourteen sets of proceedings which is a precedent for the decision of Mr. Root. On the contrary, the ruling was contrary to every precedent which bears on the case."

Why Mr. Root thought it so necessary to get these two additional votes for Taft has never been revealed. His act, Professor Hart shows, had no precedent in its support, and as such mars the perfect record of "regularity" for the convention's conduct. The fact that no protest was made to it shows that the convention managers insisted on strict regularity and obedience to precedent only when such conduct was necessary for the accomplishment of their purpose. They thus confessed that it was in their power to violate law and precedent whenever they chose to do so, or whenever their chairman elected to lead them in a new departure. The two votes were not absolutely

necessary to
secure Taft's nomination, for when the roll-call
was ended
the record stood: Taft, 561; Roosevelt, 107; La
Follette, 41;
Cummins, 17; Hughes, 2; present and not
voting, 349. Taft
thus received 21 votes more than were
necessary for a
nomination, and the two snatched, as it were,
from Massachusetts by Mr. Root were superfluous. The
Roosevelt dele-
gates, under Roosevelt's personal direction,
had withdrawn
from active participation in the proceedings of
the convention
tion, and only about a fourth of them joined in
the balloting.